WE GOT TO SEE 'THE INTERVIEW'

AND HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW. PAGE 20

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Goodbye, Middle-earth

Films. This is it — the last of Peter Jackson's Tolkien movies ends with "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies." We talk to elven star Evangeline Lilly, look at the history of the author's movies and make predictions about the crazy reboot you know is going to happen in the next 10 years. PAGE 16

Enjoy this, because "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies" is almost certainly the last time you'll see Ian McKellen's iconic portrayal of Gandalf the Grey. / WARNER BROS.

Northwest Raiders bring home the title

PAGE 02

DA drops a pair of forfeiture cases

PAGE 04

Is Cameron Diaz really getting married?

PAGE 29

Stakes are high for Eagles in Week 16

PAGE 32-35

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1 NEWS

Top 3

The best of Metro.us

1 'Accused Boston Marathon bomber appeared "dapper and relaxed" in court'

2 'PHOTOS: Production stills from "The Interview"'

3 '5 of the best acting breakthroughs of 2014'

metro
Is banning cigarette sales hurting CVS?
Boston voter turnout at 15 percent by noon on Mass. Election day
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On the go

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Northwest Raiders use Philly grit to win title

Just win, baby. The Raiders of Germantown evoke the spirit of the great NFL teams of Oakland en route to championship.

Northwest Raiders running back Isheem Young (No.1) led his tam to victory in Walt Disney World on Dec. 13. / GERARDO MORA AND DUANE WATSON

Greg Bonner walked along the sidelines of the well-manicured field in the Wide World of Sports Complex in Walt Disney World and shook his head.

"It was surreal," Bonner said, "because I had seen those fields on ESPN for so many years"

Bonner, assistant head coach of the Northwest Raiders, had been there as a spectator, "but to actually walk on that field was something else."

One week ago the team from West Oak Lane went down to Orlando, Florida, and won the Pop Warner National Super Bowl Championship for the "Midget" division. The Raiders beat the New Britain Raiders of Connecticut, 26-6.

In the tournament, the team that trained and played on a dusty field and in thick clouds of stale smoke stood up to the team that plays on artificial surfaces and freshly painted goal posts.

Connecticut might have had top-of-the-line equipment, but they didn't have the toughness.

"Even when it was raining and it was 30 degrees out, we were out there practicing [at Martin Luther King High School's field]," Coach Bonner said, "and I think that made us a better team. We were better for it."

"We have to go through a little bit more because we don't have the turf facilities," Bonner added. "I think it's also a passion."

This wasn't the first trip to the championship game for the group, which range in age between 12 and 15.

The team went to the midget championship in 2010 and 2011, but were blown out in both games.

"We were just happy to be there," Coach Bonner said.

"This time we were more prepared. We had more experience."

Raiders' starting quarterback — and the coach's son — 16-year-old Naeem Bonner, said all the teams in the tournament were missing a key element.

"The Connecticut team just couldn't measure up to the level of our aggressiveness and the confidence we have in each other," Bonner said.

"We play on grass, and it's muddy and dirty, and when we go to Florida the field is nice and I think that plays into our hands," Naeem said.

Quoted

"Coming into the season our motto was, 'Nationals are nothing.'"

Naeem Bonner

Visit **Metro.us** to read more about the Germantown Raiders.

TOMMY ROWAN
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She's not 'lovin' it.' McDonald's clerk fondled at drive-thru

Jenkins / UPPER DARBY POLICE

A Drexel Hill man, 23, was arrested around 12:30 a.m. Thursday after he walked up to a McDonald's drive-thru window and fondled the clerk.

Upper Darby Police Superintendent Michael Chitwood said Michael Jenkins flirted with the 31-year-old Philadelphia woman working at the window of the fast-food restaurant at 801 N. Lansdowne Road.

Jenkins said he would come back and pick her up at 6 p.m. She ignored Jenkins, who grabbed her breast before leaving.

When apprehended, Jenkins said, "She wanted me." TOMMY ROWAN

Bucks County

Sex tape passed around middle school

Police in Bucks County are investigating a sexually explicit video involving students circulating at a middle school, the Philadelphia Inquirer reports.

The video shows two juveniles having sex, and was passed from one student's cellphone to another's throughout the week at Franklin D. Roosevelt Middle School in Bristol, the paper wrote.

Samuel Lee, the Bristol Schools superintendent, seized several phones, and sent a letter home asking parents to talk with their kids about video sharing.

Child welfare services was also notified.

TOMMY ROWAN

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Killer. Questions on Stone death linger

Authorities are still investigating the exact nature of spree killer Bradley William Stone's death, days after he killed six in Montgomery County.

Stone's corpse was located Tuesday around 1:38 p.m. near Schoolhouse Road in Hanover Township — less than a mile from his Pennsburg home, where police and SWAT were staked out for hours on Monday searching for Stone.

Stone / FILE PHOTO

Montgomery County Coroner Walter Hoffman told the Inquirer on Thursday that Stone had a self-inflicted stab wound to his leg three inches deep.

Two prescription pill bottles, one containing white powder, were found beside Stone's body, along with an energy drink, a machete and an ax, the Inquirer said.

Hoffman said toxicology tests are required to determine the exact cause of death.

It also remains unclear why Stone was allowed to own the 9mm Beretta and .40-caliber handgun he used in the killings. He gave up his right to own firearms as part of a 2013 guilty plea for drunken driving.

Stone was listed as fully disabled due to PTSD by the Department of Veterans Affairs since 2010. An army psychologist saw no signs of "suicidal or homicidal ideation" in a Dec. 8 meeting, the Inquirer said.

SAM NEWHOUSE

DA ends two civil forfeiture actions

Forfeiture. Two Philly homeowners backed by a legal group will get to keep their homes.

Christos and Markela Sourovelis, of Somerton and Doila Welch, of North Philly, have settled civil forfeiture proceedings in which the district attorney's office sought to seize their homes under the Controlled Substances Forfeiture Act.

"It was hard to have to go through such a horrible seven months of this battle," Markela Sourovelis said. She and her husband, Christos, faced seizure of their home after their son was arrested for drug possession. "But we won, and I'm excited and I'm happy and I pray that in the future this doesn't happen to anyone else."

These homeowners were represented by the Institute for Justice, a D.C.-based legal advocacy group that is also suing the city and DA in a class action suit to end the practice of civil forfeiture.

The Institute's attorneys have said in court filings that the DA's office seizes about $6 million in assets a year and 40 percent of those funds go to the DA's office budget.

First Assistant District Attorney Ed McCann said the DA's office "frequently" settles civil forfeiture cases like with Welch and the Sourovelis family.

"Forfeiture's purpose is not for funding for this office. It's a tool we use in conjunction with neighborhood groups, elected officials and others to improve public safety," he said.

Christos and Markela Sourovelis outside their Somerton home. / COURTESY OF INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE

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Gun violence

Mom pleads guilty for tot killing sister

Tiffany Goldwire pleaded guilty Thursday to manslaughter eight months after her 2-year-old son shot and killed his 11-year-old sister.

In April, Goldwire, 31, handed her loaded revolver to her 14-year-old son and told him to hide it in a safe place. His 2-year-old brother found it.

The boy found his sister inside her bedroom in their West Philadelphia home and shot and killed her.

TOMMY ROWAN

Tiffany Goldwire / FILE PHOTO

Paramedic's Instagram not liked by police department

Unfiltered. Marcell Salters wrote that many white cops are crooked.

Philadelphia's Fire Department is conducting an internal investigation after a department paramedic posted an image from a rap video to his personal Instagram feed that shows two black men pointing guns at a white police officer's head.

The paramedic, Marcell Salters, works for Medic 23, which is housed in the police department's 19th District in Southwest Philadelphia.

The photo caption reads: "Our real enemy. Need 2 stop pointing guns at each other and at the ones that's legally killing innocents."

The photo's caption on Instagram: "Our real enemy. Need 2 stop pointing guns at each other and at the ones that's legally killing innocents." / INSTAGRAM

Quoted

"During this difficult time, I want to assure the members of the Philadelphia Police Department that we are here to support and assist you whenever you may need."

Joe Schulle, president of the firefighters and paramedics union local 22

He followed with another post that read: "'There are numerous crooked and corrupted cops (mostly white) & mostly they harass, beat or kill innocents(mostly blacks).'"

Shortly after FOX 29 reported on his posts, Salters offered a mea culpa on his Facebook page that read, "That post was out of anger of what is going on around the world (Mike Brown, Eric Garner & etc.) & past experiences that I've had with police. My intention was not to slander or hurt anyone or my brothers in blue. Again I am sorry."

The photo is from a video by Brooklyn rappers Uncle Murda and Maino that was released earlier this month.

A Philadelphia police officer, who asked not to be identified, told Metro, "This is what we deal with."

"Now he'll get in trouble," the officer said, "but not like a cop would."

Mayor Michael Nutter, in a statement released Thursday, said he condemns Salters behavior "in the strongest possible terms."

"We celebrate the exercise of our First Amendment right to expression, but there are clear limits, and this posting went far beyond standards of decency," Nutter said.

Nutter said he asked Fire Commissioner Derrick Sawyer to investigate the matter and "Invoke whatever discipline is warranted in this circumstance," he said.

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On Twitter

- "Can't believe the idiots supporting the boston marathon bomber outside his court hearing" **@TIFFSYTIFFSY**
- "So people were protesting in favor of the Boston bomber at his most recent court date. Are you [expletive] kidding me? I'm speechless." **@CLAYBRUNEAU**
- "Why do we have trial for someone like the Boston marathon bomber.. cut his throat in times square." **@MCMILLEN_MIKE**
- "They're still showing the Boston Marathon bomber's face on the news. Disgusting. Dont they know that's what he wanted? -_-" **@ASKARKOFFICIAL**
- "Anyone supporting the Boston bomber at the fed court house are stupid. Have a nice time getting monitored by the Feds haha" **@TOOHURLEY**

In courtroom, Tsarnaev seems dapper, relaxed

Boston. The accused marathon bomber showed his face in public for the first time in 17 months.

Supporters of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev hold signs outside the Moakley Federal Courthouse on Thursday after a pretrial hearing for the Boston Marathon bombing suspect. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

The man accused of setting off two bombs at the finish line of the 2013 Boston Marathon appeared dapper and relaxed Thursday in a federal courtroom in Boston, where he made his second public appearance since he was arrested and charged with the deadly terror attacks.

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 21, wore a black zip-up cardigan sweater and a calm expression as he sat shoulder to shoulder with his defense team in a packed room at the Moakley Federal House on Thursday.

Tsarnaev faces a slew of charges stemming from the April 15, 2013, bombing that left three people dead and as many as 264 injured.

His appearance was a far cry from the last time the public saw him. In his court appearance 17 months ago, Tsarnaev's left arm was in a cast and the left side of his face appeared scarred and swollen. On Thursday, Tsarnaev's face appeared normal, though his left eye drooped. His hair was curled and tousled, and he had a light beard.

Charges

30-count federal indictment:

- He faces four counts of murder for the deaths of three bombing victims and the shooting death of an MIT police officer.
- He is also charged with conspiring to use and using a weapon of mass destruction, malicious destruction of property causing death, and terrorism.

Quoted

"The U.S. government is killing our innocent civilians."

"We Muslims are one body, you hurt one you hurt us all."

Tsarnaev's scrawlings on the inside of a drydocked boat in Watertown, shortly before his arrest

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The future of travel is virtual(ly) reality

Wow, I just arrived in Australia! / GETTY IMAGES

Tourism. Some projects have begun experimenting with virtual tours as an alternative to travel in the real world.

In recent years, technology has changed many human activities, and tourism is one of them. Some projects proposed to complement and revolutionize the way humans travel the world, through virtual reality and without travelers having to leave their home and spend hours on an airplane.

Barcelona-based firm Omnipresenz allows customers to explore the far reaches of Earth through camera-equipped human avatars. In addition, the #GetTeleported, developed by VFX studio Framestore and Marriott Hotels, on the Oculus Rift headset offers a 4-D, fully immersive, virtual-travel experience. These projects are presented as an option for the global travel industry.

According to their creators, these projects seek to redefine the future of travel using technology inspired by science fiction.

"The Omnipresenz idea emerged from the illusion of real-life experience in the futuristic adventures we've ever read or seen on TV," said Carlos Soro Sanso, chief operating officer of Omnipresenz.

But the possibility to take virtual tours generates skepticism among some expert travelers.

Steve Burgess, a freelance journalist who frequently writes about his travels around the world, told Metro that travel without leaving home "would destroy the ratio-

360-degree tours

Virtual travel tour app

This app created by Czech firm Panoramas shows the different places of the world using the latest imaging technology — 360-degree virtual tours, which are linked to the GPS satellite map. A virtual tour is a special photo that shows the place at 360 by 180 degrees — this way, viewers are able see everything around them. The virtual tour app is available for iPad, iPhone, Android 4+, BlackBerry 10 and Windows Phone 8.

nale for travel — it would be like those fruit juices that have almost no real fruit. If I want to be taken away for just an hour, I have TV or the Internet. Travel must be something more. The whole point is to experience another land, another world. To do that you have to interact with people, not just programs."

However, the creators of virtual travel, and the tourism industry in general, said they do not intend for these new technologies to replace travel in the real world, but to function as a complement and even encourage people to travel more in real life.

"We believe that with Omnipresenz people can recover the desire to leave the house and socialize more, even with the different cultures in your own neighborhood. I honestly believe that after experiencing Omnipresenz you will have more desire to travel and meet in person the places visited by your avatar," said Soro Sanso.

Burgess said he shares the idea that virtual tours are only a supplement for travelers, because they can never replace the experience of knowing a place in person.

Besides encouraging real-life expeditions, technologies such as Omnipresenz also seek to help people with physical or financial difficulties to find themselves, virtually speaking, in places that they cannot access.

Quoted

"Those kinds of virtual-reality experiences might become popular forms of entertainment, but they'll never be a replacement for real travel." Burgess

"One of the objectives of Omnipresenz is to facilitate travel, to remote or local places, of the people who have temporary or chronic physical difficulties of mobility, so they can share emotions and out of isolation through new eyes to reality through a new playful and transparent channel communication," said Soro Sanso.

While continuing the discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of this new technology and whether it could replace the experience of a trip in the real world, the first experimenters of virtual tours say that they are satisfied with the experience and are willing to share it with others.

"My experience has been incredible," said Marte Roel, the first user of Omnipresenz. It's something I even share with friends or with a partner."

DANIEL CASILLAS
MWN

Q&A with Marte Roel

First user of Omnipresenz: 'I felt I was in another place'

How was your experience to "travel" with Omnipresenz?
Travel in Omnipresenz is a unique experience, a lot of freedom and even transformation, in the sense that I've let things that I might not have done otherwise and has had an impact on my way of being beyond the screen.

Did you really feel like you were in another place with the help of Omnipresenz?
Yes, I felt I was in another place, not only in a geographical sense, but also a sense of being open to adventure. Besides knowing a different place, colors and sounds, I got to know people and have made very funny connections.

How do you compare your experience with Omnipresenz and an ordinary trip?
The experience for me was something different. Yes it is a journey, but it is a peculiar journey where one is encouraged to experiment, to talk to people and where one immediately sees peculiar reactions of people. It's like traveling with a mask and without leaving home commitments. On the other hand, the generated connection with the avatar is very peculiar; suddenly the decisions are made from a kind of mutual empathy. ... It was a very interesting experience indeed.

What activities could you do during your trip?
I remember an incredible moment when I ran through my avatar in Plaça de Catalunya in Barcelona chasing pigeons, and people saw me as if I were crazy — it was amazing. I also I wanted to approach a group of girls trying to be good people — they were super fun and my avatar gave a rose to one [laughs].

DANIEL CASILLAS, METRO

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White House does not dismiss idea of a Castro visit

Cuba trip. The White House on Wednesday had said it was possible Obama could visit Havana.

The White House does not dismiss the possibility of an eventual, precedent-shattering visit to Washington by Cuban President Raul Castro as part of President Barack Obama's plans to normalize relations with Havana.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Roberta Jacobson, who is expected to visit Cuba in January, said renewed relations were not directly tied to progress on human rights in Cuba.

"The president has had the leaders of both Burma and China to the United States," he said. By meeting such leaders, the United States can better influence countries to better respect universal human rights, he said.

The biggest obstacle to normal ties between the two countries is a decades-old embargo.

REUTERS

Quoted

"I wouldn't rule out a visit from President Castro."

Josh Earnest, White House spokesman

Cuban President Raul Castro / REUTERS

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COMCAST

Loosen restrictions

Obama has power to further weaken sanctions

President Barack Obama has the power to further weaken U.S. sanctions against Cuba beyond the normalization of relations with Havana that he announced on Wednesday, sanctions experts said.

While the restoration of diplomatic ties to Havana after decades of animosity was a big breakthrough, the real obstacle to normal ties between the two countries is the decades-old embargo.

Obama has wide executive powers to further open up to Cuba, after his announcement that he will ease some restrictions on commerce, transportation and banking.

While the sanctions are enshrined in law, most notably the Helms-Burton Act of 1996, a U.S. president has leeway to chip away at the embargo even if Congress objects, the experts said.

REUTERS

Quoted

"There is a lot of breadth to authorize things more broadly than they've been authorized, provided that the broad (legislative) contours are adhered to."

Peter Kucik a former Treasury Department official who worked on Cuban sanctions

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Sugar is worse for you than salt

We feel the same way, kid. / GOODSHOT RF

Study. The not-so-sweet truth could break your heart.

Sugar, not salt, could put us at even greater risk of heart-related diseases, according to a new study published in the journal Open Heart.

For years, scientists have pointed to salt's role in rising rates of cardiovascular issues, while the role of sugar has long been underestimated.

"Approximately 15 percent of people in the U.S. are consuming 25 percent or more [of their] calories from added sugars. This level of intake almost triples their risk of cardiovascular mortality," says lead researcher Dr. James J. DiNicolantonio of Saint Luke's Mid American Heart Institute. "And yet this level of intake is supposedly OK based on the Institute of Medicine's recommendations."

It's the ketonic monosaccharide fructose found in sugar that is particularly harmful and responsible for contributing to hypertension.

Primarily metabolized in the liver, this sugar found in abundance in fruits and honey leads to fatty liver and hepatic insulin resistance, causing the pancreas to secrete more insulin, which drives increased visceral fat storage, inflammation and diabetes — all of which puts stress on the heart.

DiNicolantonio and colleagues also established that the average reductions in blood pressure achieved by restricting salt intake tend to be relatively small, meaning that current recommendations to restrict sodium intake to less than 3 grams could actually intensify cardiovascular issues.

"Lowering sodium in the food supply will likely increase the intake of added sugars and processed foods, as sodium intake is likely physiologically driven — we've been consuming the same amount of sodium for 50 years. We will likely just eat more processed foods that are now lower in sodium to obtain the sodium our physiology demands," he says.

These new findings could pave the way for significant changes in dietary recommendations, with the expert advising, "The best way to prevent high blood pressure would be to eat real whole foods and avoid anything with added sugars: sucrose (also known as table sugar) and high fructose corn syrup."

ELODIE NOEL, MWN
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Stats

25%+

The average American is getting more than a quarter of his or her calories from added sugars, which triples the risk of heart problems.

Hidden sugar

Some products in which you might not expect to find sugar:

- Yogurt
- Pasta sauce
- Agave (85% fructose)
- Barbecue sauce
- Dried fruits
- Granola bars

Barbecue sauce can be packed with sugar.
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2 CULTURE

Animal instinct

There's a Battle Moose?

A lot of colorful characters contribute to the titular Battle of the Five Armies in the final "Hobbit" film, with countless humans, dwarves, elves and orcs clanging swords and screaming bloody murder. But amid the din, one clear MVP shines through — a stalwart iconoclast worthy of his own spinoff franchise. That character? Lee Pace's moose. Pace's noble elf king, Thranduil, proudly rides into battle on the noblest and most magnificent of beasts, which I have dubbed his Battle Moose.

OK, yes, so it's actually technically an elven elk, but Battle Moose is more fun to say than Battle Elk. And acknowledging that it's an elf riding an elk just feels too cutesy. The important part is the battling, anyway. This noble beast in action is definitely the highlight of the film. NED EHRBAR

Leaving Tolkien-ville

Farewells. Peter Jackson's "Hobbit" trilogy comes to an end — as does his signature vision of the author's world.

This is it. With the arrival of "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies," there is no more Middle-earth. That is to say there is no more of Peter Jackson's iconic rendition of Middle-earth. Since 2001's "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings," Jackson has been bringing J.R.R. Tolkien's world to the movies. And though his take on the series' initial, slender installment has been brutally puffed-out, it will be a shame to never again see Ian McKellen's Gandalf, Cate Blanchett's Galadriel and more. Let's weep some.

MATT PRIGGE
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See you later?

What to expect from the inevitable 'Hobbit' reboot

Let's face it, eventually Peter Jackson will get bored again. Or the economy of Wellington, New Zealand, will need a boost. Or New Line Cinema will realize it doesn't have any other sure-fire revenue streams. Or some young film executive — who is probably in middle school right now — will think it's a brilliant idea. No matter what the impetus, eventually "The Hobbit" franchise will be rebooted. Here's how we think things will be different next time.

Orlando Bloom will be sad if there's another Legolas.
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1 Hey, how about four movies? Five, maybe?
Sure, some people complained about stretching a rather thin children's novel into three extra-long feature films, but they still bought tickets. So let's see how far we can go with this.

2 More "Lord of the Rings" characters
Nobody seemed to mind too much how Peter Jackson shoehorned Legolas (Orlando Bloom) into "The Hobbit" movies. Think bigger!

3 Messing with "The Lord of the Rings" timeline even more
Who cares about continuity when you can have even more fan-friendly inside jokes? Say, let's have Sean Bean show up even earlier and die again. People love watching that guy die! (If Sean Bean is no longer available, check the prices for Hologram Sean Bean.)

4 Smell-o-vision
Using 3-D cameras and higher frame rates might have been enough bells and whistles for a 2010 crowd, but tomorrow's audiences need a little something extra — such as movie-related scents pumped into the theater. You think you know dwarves now, just wait until you get a whiff of them after an unexpectedly long journey.

5 Can Tolkien be a character?
Bilbo telling the story of "The Hobbit" was a great framing device, but how about a framing device for the framing device? Kids love narrative bookends! We could feature J.R.R. Tolkien first getting the idea for "The Hobbit." Heck, it could even work as a prequel to a Tolkien biopic starring Elijah Wood (or Hologram Elijah Wood).
NED EHRBAR

Timeline of the 'Rings'

1966: "The Hobbit"
Here's one of the most beautiful films that exists only to exploit a legal loophole. Producer William L. Snyder envisioned a splashy feature. But when rights were about to lapse, he cranked out a brief short.

1977-1980: Animated films
Rankin-Bass produced their own "Hobbit" toon, followed by Ralph Bakshi's part-rotoscoped "The Lord of the Rings." The far more cute "Return of the Kings" closed things out.

1985: "The Fantastic Journey of the Hobbit Mr. Bilbo Baggins"
The first live-action Middle-earth came from the Soviet Union, of course. "The Hobbit" became a TV movie, with actors in funny makeup scared by puppets.

2001-2003: "The Lord of the Rings"
One of the biggest gambles in movie history paid off and then some, as we now know. But at the time there was a chance a pricey film series based on nerd books might never go mainstream.

2012-2014: "The Hobbit"
Needing his Tolkien fix but good, Jackson himself took over the prequel — then blew it out into three films and nine hours, partly out of Smaug-like greed, partly because he never wanted to leave.

Interview. Evangeline Lilly becomes Tauriel

Evangeline Lilly caught the world's attention on "Lost." The Canadian actress is now concluding her role as the warrior elf Tauriel in "The Battle of the Five Armies." But unlike the tenacious and impulsive character she plays, Lilly is completely serene, affable and down-to-earth. And director Peter Jackson wrote the role — a new character not in the book — just for her.

How involved were you in the creation of this new character?
I was invited to be in this creative process and as a writer, it was an honor to be with people who have won an Academy Award and also accept my ideas. All women in the Tolkien universe are strong and independent in their own ways. Galadriel represents power. Arwen, love. Eowyn, decision.

What does Tauriel represent?
She would represent compassion, the power of idealism and justice and innocence. She is very young, very naive, and she doesn't really understand how terrible the world is outside of her kingdom. She discovers that all is not as she believes, of course, in the midst of a terrible fight against the orcs. [Laughs]

What would you like Tauriel's fate to be?
She might have the same fate as Aragorn and journey through Middle-earth, discovering new places. I do not think she would go back to the realm of the Black Forest and receive orders from the king [Thranduil, played by Lee Pace]. She has seen too much.
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Things the new 'Annie' gets wrong — and the one thing it gets right

The new incarnation of the musical "Annie" is set in New York and was filmed in New York, but we have some concerns about its portrayal of New York. Not to nitpick, but there are a few things the movie gets very, very wrong. **NED EHRBAR**

How basic NYC geography works

There is enough Manhattan neighborhood crossing from one shot to the next in this film, you almost think they're doing it on purpose to mess with New York audiences. It could even be a drinking game, though likely a lethal one. Most jarring? Will Stacks (Jamie Foxx) enters his high rise at Columbus Circle, but what's that a few blocks away once he's upstairs? The Freedom Tower. And come on. Crossing the George Washington Bridge, taking an immediate right and ending up in Liberty Park? Who do you think you're kidding?

How Pat Kiernan works

Any New Yorker worth their everything bagel knows that NY1 stalwart and lovable Canadian expat Pat Kiernan is an anchor, not a man-on-the-street reporter. He mans the desk, dutifully reading the newspapers to us every morning. He does not, as the movie portrays, elbow his way ahead of other reporters on the street to shout questions at a mayoral candidate. Show some respect.

How Miss Hannigan is supposed to be a villain

So, Miss Hannigan? The dastardly orphan wrangler portrayed by Carol Burnett in the 1982 film? Yeah, she's evil, pure and simple. But maybe Cameron Diaz wouldn't do the part unless the character got some sort of softening and redemption to make her a little likeable?

How musicals work

Aside from "updating" some old "Annie" standards with some GarageBand drum loops that make you long for co-producer Jay Z's earlier work, Will Gluck's film clearly doesn't really want to be a musical. The most inspired moments in the film, few as they are, come when Gluck gets to make the kind of winking comedy he's better at — and which has no place in an "Annie" movie.

BARRY WETCHER

What Hootie and the Blowfish were

Speaking of Miss Hannigan, Diaz's failed singer/back-up dancer is beyond grating, but at least the "I was kicked out of C+C Music Factory just before they made it" bit is cute. Less cute? Her line about almost being one of Hootie's blowfish. Anyone who actually gets that reference will realize it gets completely wrong what that band was and how it was composed, and then they'll just be mad at you.

How social media works

Speaking of social media, a climactic chase during which Annie is tracked via her social media presence as New Yorkers post photos of her to Twitter and Instagram is either a sad misapprehension of how people use those networks — I mean, do you type in the intersection you're at when you post? — or a terrifying example of how exploitable geolocation data can be.

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The one thing it does get right

It's at least right about how gentrified Harlem has become. Despite a throwaway line by Jamie Foxx warning that another character shouldn't venture above 110th Street because "we'll bust you up," the person in charge of casting background actors in the Harlem-set scenes does an inadvertently great job of showing how much the neighborhood has changed.

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Contraband. Too bad you may never get to see 'The Interview,' because it's pretty hilarious

Review

'The Interview'

Directors: Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg

Stars: James Franco, Seth Rogen

Rating: R

● ● ● ●

James Franco and Seth Rogen head to North Korea for the controversial "The Interview." / SONY

Perhaps the funniest part about the unprecedented furor over "The Interview" is that it's all been over a movie with a record-shattering number of anus jokes. Pulled from theaters due to terrorist threats that are likely bluffs, it's a film too silly for international brouhahas, with a peerlessly goofy James Franco turn and lots and lots of Katy Perry. As satires go, this isn't "Dr. Strangelove," even if it ends in a ballsier cinematic act of war. It's a bunch of clowns seeing how far they can go in mocking the humorless, just to see what will happen. Whoops.

"The Interview" isn't even the first movie to target a North Korean leader. The world survived "Team America," which turned a puppet Kim Jong-il into a cockroach. Here, his tyrannical, babyfaced son (Randall Park) becomes the target of CIA lust after he agrees to a chat with Franco's David Skylark, a lowest common denominator infotainment god.

The funny thing about people getting up in arms about "The Interview" is that Park's Kim winds up unexpectedly semi-sympathetic. Meekly introducing himself to Franco's Skylark, he and Skylark bond over being despised by those who view them as dangerous for culture — and, in Kim's case, the human race.

Everything's building to a "Frost/Nixon"-style tete-a-tete that spills over into an outsized action climax, one that outdoes "Pineapple Express" and "This Is the End." Rogen and company's glee in going really far is evident; you can picture them bowling over the first time they saw the crazy things they came up with materialize onscreen. Even a key moment, the censorship of which has been all over the news, does, for the record, go pretty far. "The Interview" is not worth dying for, but it's sad that it's been buried. **MATT PRIGGE**

Review

'Annie'

● ○ ○ ○ ○

The Depression-era comic strip became a 1970s musical, then a movie and now another movie, this one with "Beasts of the Southern Wild"'s Quvenzhane Wallis as an orphan taken in by Will Stacks (Jamie Foxx), a Bloombergian CEO using her to help win his mayoral campaign.

The lowdown How does one do "Annie" — nice, sweet, sickeningly plucky "Annie" — in self-aware, economically battered and eternally distracted 2014? For better but mostly for worse, the new modernization tries everything. It's sincerely upbeat yet winkingly post-modern; it addresses the income gap while indulging in "Sex and the City"-style wealth porn.

At times "Annie" vies for the self-aware pop culture salvaging of "21 Jump Street" and "The Lego Movie." But most of it runs on pep, if a weary, not terribly committed version of it. Wallis does little but beam smiles and bob her head, whether she's forced to sing or anguish over her lost parents. Little of the emotional complexity she exuded in "Southern Wild" carries over, in part because the film itself is rarely sincere. It's as calculated as Stacks's scheme to milk Annie for votes — sometimes it's cool; other times it's lame. The musical numbers are mixes of rote singing and stiff dancing; there's a lot of swaying arms and forced grinning. When music takes over, a film straining to be down has all the pizzazz of an Up with People production. **MATT PRIGGE**

Jamie Foxx, Quvenzhane Wallis and Rose Byrne bust some high school musical moves in one of the numbers in the new "Annie." / COLUMBIA PICTURES

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Ben Stiller swears this will be the final 'Night at the Museum' movie

Sequel. Stiller doesn't rule out a reboot, but he says he's through with the franchise.

The third film in the Ben Stiller-starring "Night at the Museum" series, "The Secret of the Tomb," has been billed as its final installment. But given the success of the family-friendly franchise, isn't it a bit hasty to just call it like that? "I don't know. I mean, I'm pretty sure it is [the end] for me," Stiller says. "And that was one of the things going into it, by allowing it to be that, it allowed us to tell this story, which I think is my character sort of saying goodbye."

Of course, Stiller is savvy enough to know never to say never in Hollywood. "You never know these days with reboots and number fours," he jokes. "Maybe Edward Norton will show up in the next one. As the Hulk or something. It's one of those things where, I don't know, I won't say never, but it felt to me like that's what made sense to me at this time."

For the new installment, Stiller and crew went to London's British Museum for filming, which was a treat in and of itself. "They had to be OK with what we were doing there because they'd never let anyone film there before," he says. "We didn't go to any special rooms or anything like that, but the Hall of Enlightenment there is pretty amazing. We basically got to spend a few nights there. The Rosetta Stone for me was the big thing that I was impressed with. That was our start mark — like, 'OK, let's go again, take two, back to the Rosetta Stone.' I even tweeted out a picture of me and Robin [Williams] stand-

Quoted

"You never know these days with reboots and number fours. ... I don't know, I won't say never, but it felt to me like that's what made sense to me at this time." Stiller

Reboot?

'Reality Bites' turns 20

Speaking of sequels, has Stiller ever entertained the idea of revisiting the world of "Reality Bites," his first film as a director which recently turned 20 years old? Well, not exactly. "We actually talked about possibly doing a TV series, but we didn't end up doing it," Stiller reveals. "I think it's probably for the best that we didn't do it, but it was an interesting idea to revisit it. I don't know if I would do a sequel to it. It would be kind of weird."

Ben Stiller kept a memento of his nights at the museum. / KERRY BROWN

ing next to it. Just the coolest thing ever."

And maybe this really is the end of the franchise, because Stiller has already taken home a keepsake. "I took the tablet home when we wrapped the movie. So I'm keeping my fingers crossed that something might happen," he says of the enchanted prop. "We'll see what happens, if anything comes to life in my house at night. I'm going to keep it in our little guest house. I have another cool memento from a movie, which are Tom Cruise's arms from 'Tropic Thunder.'"

Nostalgia

All he wants for Christmas

Maybe it's doing the third — and possibly last — entry in a family movie franchise, maybe it's the 20th anniversary of "Reality Bites," but Stiller has been feeling the nostalgia lately. "As you get older, I feel there's more nostalgia for things you remember from your childhood, and it becomes more meaningful when you find a picture of an old toy," he says. "I was talking to some friends today about skateboarding, and I found online the skateboard that I had when I was 12 years old. I never hung onto it. I found one online that was the same kind, and so I asked my wife if she would get it for me as a Christmas present." Problem solved.

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The 10 best films of 2014

List. Our favorite movie of the year featured ScarJo. We also loved us some Wes Anderson.

This was a rough year, but the movies of 2014 didn't serve as escape; they offered accidental echoes of real life. The tragedies in Ferguson and Staten Island were reflected in angry, sharp movies about race such as "Dear White People," "Selma" and "Top Five." General anxieties about death were amplified in "Boyhood," "Only Lovers Left Alive" and "National Gallery." We couldn't even get the Seth Rogen comedy "The Interview" because of fear of terrorist strikes. There was occasional much-needed respite from the gloom. Here are the best, darkest, funniest and, occasionally, just fun movies of the year.

'Edge of Tomorrow'

10 The first two-thirds of this Tom Cruise sci-fi are so good — it is "Groundhog Day" with aliens, after all — that the so-so third that follows is easy to excuse. More funny/clever than rip-roaring (though that, too), this — not interchangeable Marvel romps — is what should be clogging multiplexes.

'Selma'

9 The world's first studio picture about Martin Luther King Jr. could have been another turgid biopic. But it's a thrilling tale of a small but vital chapter in his life as well as the grunt work of activism. Its portrayal of protests is more than accidentally topical, as peaceful protests concerning race rage in the streets.

'Two Days, One Night'

8 It's easy to take for granted Belgium's Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne ("Kid with a Bike"), who reliably churn out deeply humanist and deeply gripping social dramas that often play like nail-biting thrillers. Their latest is only slightly better than usual, with Marion Cotillard rushing like mad to save her crappy job.

'Inherent Vice'

7 The year's funniest comedy is, of course, an adaptation of the unadaptable Thomas Pynchon. The novelist's impenetrable stoner detective tome becomes more than just another "Big Lebowski": It has the weirdest sense of humor since, well, director Paul Thomas Anderson's own "Punch-Drunk Love."

Scarlett Johansson plays an alien seductress in "Under the Skin," our pick for best film of 2014. / A24

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David Oyelowo, center, plays Martin Luther King Jr. in the civil rights drama "Selma." / PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Ralph Fiennes has a blast in the days leading up to WWII in Wes Anderson's "The Grand Budapest Hotel." / FOX SEARCHLIGHT

'Dear White People'

6 Justin Simien's temperature taking of modern times as reflected through campus life wasn't really about stupid white people so much as about the diversity of black life never shown on screens. Of course, it was about stupid white people, too.

'We Are the Best!'

5 Amid all the misery and tragedy of this year, there was always this: a joyous comedy about Swedish tween punk rock girls who take themselves very seriously.

'Listen Up Philip'

4 There were a lot of sociopath movies this year, such as "Whiplash" and "Big Eyes." Jason Schwartzman's young, cartoonishly pompous novelist wasn't even the worst of them, but he was the saddest — an upstart trying to be the kind of literary jerk of a bygone era and succeeding only at turning into a sour loner.

'National Gallery'

3 Frederick Wiseman has been cranking out observational documentaries on institutions for half a century. This hang at the London museum is more of the same, only more brilliant than usual.

'The Grand Budapest Hotel'

2 Wes Anderson's latest is so hilarious that its despair isn't noticeable till a second viewing.

'Under the Skin'

1 Scarlett Johansson was dangerous in 2014. "Lucy" turned her into the master of the universe. She was merely an alien seductress in this mood piece, in which she trolled Glasgow luring bros to a mysterious death. It's also a study of ScarJo, celebrity: someone outside of us, lusted after yet unobtainable, who ultimately can never be one of us, even if that may be for the best.

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*National Research Council. (2003) Elder mistreatment: Abuse, neglect and exploitation in an aging America. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press

Catch the season finale of "The Affair" Sunday at 10 p.m. on Showtime. / MARK SCHAFER, SHOWTIME

Joshua Jackson is the world's oldest 36-year-old

Interview. The former "Dawson's Creek" star is enjoying his break between seasons of "The Affair."

JOSHUA JACKSON
GETTY IMAGES

Joshua Jackson's latest show, "The Affair," wraps up its first 10-episode season Sunday night, but despite the series' success and critical acclaim, he understands if you still think of other work he's done when you see him. "Depending on where you are in the world, Pacey left a mark, and I'm 36 years old now. That's a long time ago," Jackson says of his breakout "Dawson's Creek" role. "Frankly, even before that, [there was] 'The Mighty Ducks.' Maybe not in the rest of the world, but for Canada, I still walk around as the bearded old man that I am now and have 9-year-olds who are like, 'Charlie! Oh my God, what's going on?'"

But with age comes wisdom, and for Jackson, the 10-episode structure of "The Affair" — and the cable landscape in general — was a revelation. "As a man who's done a lot of seasons of television and frankly, has just been working for a long, long time — I mean, this is my 25th year in the union, I can't believe that's true, but it's true — what is so lovely about doing 10 episodes is that just at the point at which you're tired and you want the season to be done, it's done and then you can go out and live the rest of your life," he says.

Home life

Second jobs

So what does the rest of his life look like these days? "Diane [Kruger] and I are building a house so I am a foreman on a construction site," he says. "The woman is key. I've been with Diane now for eight and a half years, and the process of being in love and accommodating another human being in your space is important. The thing that I've learned that I enjoy most about being in love and having a partner is having somebody who shares your story for better and for worse, right?"

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The weekly Yelp. There's no denying it — brussels sprouts are the hottest vegetable

When did brussels sprouts become so darn cool? These leafy veggies have long been disrespected, fed to the dog when no one was looking or sneaked into the trash hidden in napkins. It's time for these little cabbages to shine. You go, brussels sprouts, you go!

Dig into a bowl of crispy brussels sprouts at Sampan. / FACEBOOK

High Street on Market

308 Market St., Old City

I order brussels sprouts everywhere and I have to say this was one of my favorite versions I've ever had in Philly. The secret was dollops of creamy goat cheese. Wow! **JILL L.**

Cook and Shaker

2301 E. Albert St., Kensington

Everyone here was super friendly. We ordered some great beers and an appetizer of fried brussels sprouts tossed in buffalo sauce. Everything was great! Definitely will be stopping by again. **JOE L.**

Sampan

124 S. 13th St., Center City

I tried the brussels sprouts for the first time and they were awesome. Tasted like they were marinated in some sort of Italian dressing. Happy hour here is great, but if you plan on splitting plates I would suggest two people to one plate. **LAURA G.**

Il Pittore

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The brussels sprouts with kale, poached egg and carrot puree was a beautiful combination of textures and flavors. I liked how the sweetness of the carrots tempered the bitterness of the greens. **CLARE D.**

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TV watch list

How often has Marge made this face at Homer over the years? / FOX

COMEDY

'The Simpsons'

Homer stays too long at Moe's bar on Christmas Eve, and Marge tells him not to come home. Time to go to a movie and get some Chinese food, Homer. **SUNDAY, 8 P.M., FOX**

COMEDY

'Saturday Night Live'

Amy Adams hosts, with a little help from the dreamboats of One Direction.
SATURDAY, 11:30 P.M., NBC

REALITY

'The Amazing Race'

Get ready to see who will win: The teams reach the finish line in Los Angeles.
SEASON FINALE FRIDAY, 8 P.M., CBS

DRAMA

'Homeland'

The name of the show gets literal, as Carrie and Saul return to the U.S.
SEASON FINALE, SUNDAY, 11 P.M., SHOWTIME
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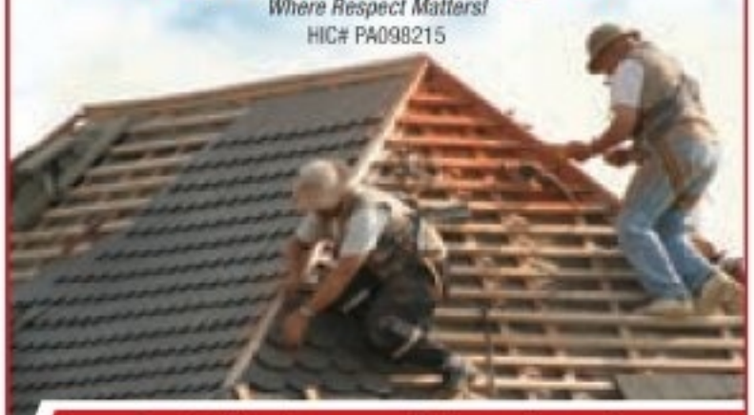

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How to create the perfect online dating profile

Love. We talk to an expert about the dos and don'ts of Internet dating.

These tips will help you tweak your online dating profile. / BLEND IMAGES

The world of online dating can be daunting to navigate at times. In his new ebook "Poke Me: A No-Nonsense Guide to Online Dating & Offline Loving," author Kabir Chopra shows you how to create the perfect profile to showcase your unique personality. Here's what he had to say about that all-important first message, how to pick the perfect profile photo and the one mistake all online daters should avoid.

What's the one mistake that online daters seem to make the most?
The No. 1 mistake is that people are not highlighting their personalities in their profiles. Some people are still shy about online dating, so they are very skimpy in their responses. But the profile questions give you the opportunity to show your passions. It's a missed opportunity to not tell others enough about yourself.

Describe what makes a good profile pic.
It should be a good-quality image and well lit with a nice background. You should be the center of attention in the photo.

Can you give readers some advice about how to write a good first message?
Focus on whatever popped out at you about this particular profile. Basically, you want the person you are messaging to know that one, you are a normal person who has actually read their profile and two, that you have mentioned whatever appealed to you.

How many photos should you include in a profile?
I would say five is a good number. You should use photos of yourself in different environments, and using one or two selfies are OK. If you're outdoorsy, take a photo outdoors. If you like biking, use a photo of you on your bike. And this should be self-explanatory, but you should look good in all of the photos and have a nice smile.

Tip

Choose the right photo

And what's the one photo you absolutely shouldn't use?
If you're a guy, don't use pictures of you with lots of other girls. It makes you look like a player and turns women off. With girls, it's basically the same thing. You don't want to give off the impression that you already have a boyfriend or girlfriend.

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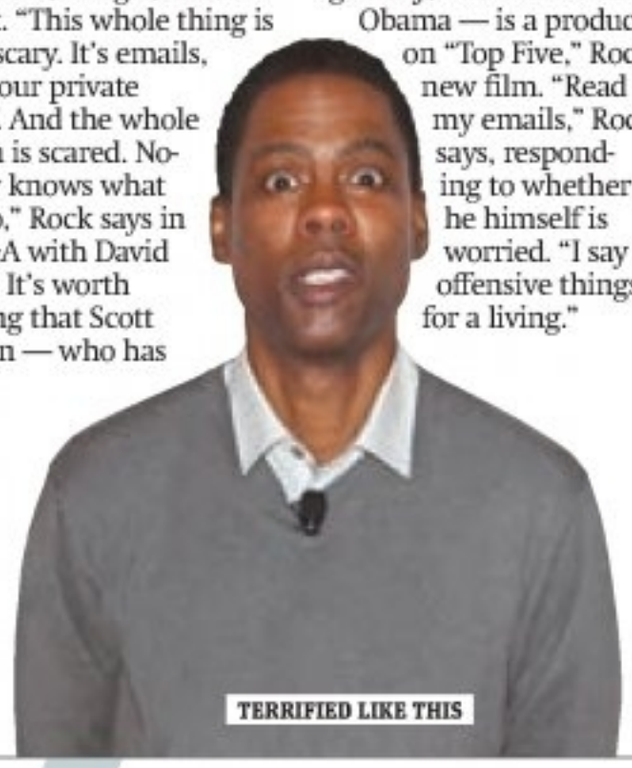
1 Cameron Diaz marrying one of the Madden twins

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Cameron Diaz and heavily tattooed Good Charlotte twin Benji Madden have been dating since May, but apparently that's long enough to know he's a keeper. A source tells the National Enquirer that Diaz and Madden are "planning their wedding for early in the new year. They've been telling close friends in recent weeks about their plans, but it's very hush-hush." Well, I mean, it was very hush-hush until now. Way to go, anonymous source! Not everyone is thrilled, though, chief among them Benji's twin brother, Joel, who "actually likes Cameron a lot and thinks they're a good match, but he doesn't want Benji to rush into something so quickly." Which is fair. I mean, has she even been around them long enough to conclusively tell them apart? Twins are hard, man.

I feel like there's a whole vault of quotes from Diaz about marriage and family that could be dug up for this. Like in 2012 when she told Esquire that marriage "just wasn't the thing I was drawn to." Or how about two months ago, when she told Marie Clare, "I'm not looking for a husband or marriage or not looking for that stuff. I'm living, not thinking what I should or shouldn't be doing with my life." What a difference Thanksgiving makes.

2 Chris Rock says the Sony hack has Hollywood terrified



TERRIFIED LIKE THIS

The whole Sony hacking scandal has the entertainment industry on edge, at least according to Chris Rock. "This whole thing is just scary. It's emails, it's your private stuff. And the whole town is scared. Nobody knows what to do," Rock says in a Q&A with David Carr. It's worth noting that Scott Rudin — who has come under fire because of leaked emails between he and Amy Pascal about Angelina Jolie and President Obama — is a producer on "Top Five," Rock's new film. "Read my emails," Rock says, responding to whether he himself is worried. "I say offensive things for a living."

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRBAR
@Nedrick
ned.ehrbar@metro.us

3 Ansel Elgort wants you to know he's straight

"The Fault in our Stars" star Ansel Elgort is apparently worried you might have heard some rumors about him or maybe made some assumptions of your own about his sexuality. But just for the record, he's totally not gay. The 20-year-old took to Twitter to announce, "Just in case it isn't clear … I like girls. A lot." I'm sure the tweet was meant to come off as endearing, but that "a lot" at the end just makes him seem a bit desperate. But he did at least follow up with a nice message about acceptance, insisting that "If I was gay I wouldn't hide it."

Elgort posing with girls. Because just in case it isn't clear … he likes girls. A lot.

4 'Smash' lives to sing another day

Fans of the canceled NBC Broadway musical drama "Smash" will get a chance to revisit some of the show's magic next year when the Actors Fund hosts a one-night-only benefit performance of songs from "Bombshell," the Marilyn Monroe musical featured within the show. A similar one-off concert performance of the series other musical, "Hit List," took place last year. Tickets for the "Bombshell" performance will go on sale in early 2015, with the event taking place in June. No word, though, on whether it will be Katherine McPhee or Megan Hilty playing Marilyn. A girl's got to have some secrets, right?

A still from "Bombshell," the Marilyn Monroe musical featured within the show

5 Neil Patrick Harris has some adorable videos for you

INSTAGRAM, INSTAGRANPH

Stars, they're just like us. In that they have iPhones and find their children ridiculously adorable. Neil Patrick Harris, for example, posted a video on Instagram of his 4-year-old twins, Gideon and Harper, singing "Jingle Bells" while decorating their Christmas tree. So if you're into that sort of thing, you can watch the children of someone you don't actually know being all cute and festive.

Daily video

FUNNYORDIE.COM

The Final Episode of 'Serial'

Did the finale of "Serial" not give you the satisfaction you were looking for? Funny or Die has you covered. The humor site taps into the obsession built up around the This American Life podcast and its highly anticipated conclusion. Michaela Watkins plays "Serial" host Sarah Koenig as she dodges eager fans and scrambles to come up with a satisfying resolution before finally snapping. "What do you want? I do a podcast! It was supposed to be for four people. Do you think if I thought this was going to be anything I would have MailChimp sponsor us?" she rants. "What do you want to know? Do you want to know who did it? Fine. It was me! I did it!" Well, I don't think anyone saw that coming.

Letters

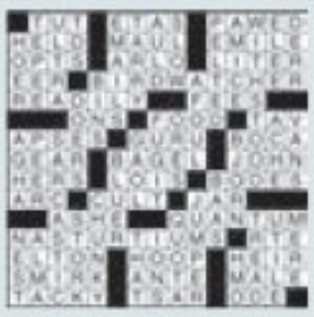
The gifts no one can afford

Re: 'Metro Gift Guide' (Metro, Dec. 18)' I'm sorry, did I forget what city we live in here? So few people are paying their taxes, all the schools are closing. So few people are saving money, there are 90-year-olds working full-time jobs. Fast food workers who can't even get simple orders correct are protesting for $15/hour wages — and you're pushing $65 chocolate-covered Cheerios? Three months' worth of pickles for $170? A $350 camera for a 12-year-old? $30 socks? An $85 pet bed? Who even comes up with this ridiculous sh–? I can afford every single thing on your list, yet I wouldn't waste my money on any bit of this overpriced crap.
JENN MATRONE-CLARK, VIA EMAIL

Terrorism would fail if all had guns

Re: 'Terrorist acts from Sydney to the Philadelphia suburbs' (Metro .us, Dec. 16) In that Q&A one of the "experts" you interview makes reference to "soft targets like cafes and other public spaces." One can only conclude that Ms. Maria Haberfeld is talking about so called "Gun Free Zones." Because of strict gun laws the entire country of Australia is effectively one big "Gun Free Zone." Apparently, this gave the "terrorist" free rein for over 20 hours because he was the only guy with a gun.
JOHN STASNEK, VIA EMAIL

Thursday's answer



EASIER TRAVEL, HARD DISCUSSION

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN

When you're in a close relationship long enough, you know that certain topics are off limits. For example, my wife and I will not discuss cats, the merits of in-laws or how great Sandra Bullock looks despite her age. It's not that we have nothing to say, but rather that we say too much. Our discussions can quickly turn into a debates, then into arguments, then into angry exchanges that end with, "And I thought 'Gravity' was a great movie!"

This comes to mind because of the news about Cuba.

In political terms, the island south of Florida has always been a difficult topic of conversation. Ask many young Americans what they think of the longstanding U.S. antipathy toward Cuba and you'll likely be greeted with a shrug. For them, concerns about communism, dictators on the doorstep and banned cigars are like talk about saving tinfoil during World War II; quaint relics of a bygone age.

Elderly Cuban Americans, however, will glower as they recall fleeing the Castro regime, losing businesses, homes and land in the process. They'll talk about unfair arrests, imprisonment, and suppression of dissent. Others, including my mother (who has never even been to Cuba) will recall the terror of the Cuban Missile Crisis when for two dark weeks it seemed the Soviets might launch a torrent of nuclear warheads at the U.S. from only 90 miles away.

For decades that sharp divide kept any talk of change to whispers. But now the older opposition is dying off. And after a year of secret talks (once again, it appears this administration just loves secrets!), President Obama has sweeping plans for new diplomatic ties with Cuba and lower economic and travel restrictions. "It's time for a new approach," he says.

Maybe. But make no mistake: Some older folks will see this as the White House legitimizing a regime of thugs who have brutalized their families and friends for ages. True, those voices are growing more faint, but they may yet be loud enough to prove Cuba is still a hard subject to bring up over the holiday table.

CNN=POLITICS

Sudoku: Easy and hard

			8	9				7
		1		3	6			
6			5		1	3		
	4	9				6		1
	1			6			8	
7		5				2	3	
		8	7		3			6
			2	4		7		
5				1	9			

5		1	9			6		8
2			1	5				
					6	2		
			7	1				6
		7	2		5	9		
9				3	4			
		8	4					
				7	1			2
7		6			2	4		1

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. You will be impatient, but that doesn't mean you should gossip or make someone look bad. Bide your time and wait for the outcome to unfold.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Making solid investments before the end of the year will help increase your finances. Do your best to show someone how much you care.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Positive results are imminent if you keep your promises. Think before you speak, or you may inadvertently cause embarrassment to someone who looks up to you.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Despite your hard work, your plans and projects will fall short. Someone will try to take advantage of your good nature and desire to please. Look out for No. 1.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. It will be difficult to get your ideas off the ground by yourself. Talk to people who understand your plans and can give you suggestions and help along the way. Utilize your skills.

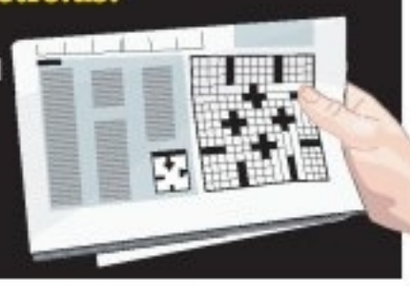
♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. If you are seeking inspiration, study different cultures, countries or subjects that interest you. There are many ways to expand your knowledge.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Someone will try to discredit you. Make sure you accurately present yourself and what you have to offer. Take credit for your contributions.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Romance will brighten your day. Plan to do something special with a loved one. Personal adjustments made now will enable you to take on a number of new challenges in the coming year.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. There are tremendous personal changes happening. Whatever has been holding you back will be rectified, allowing you to move forward.

Visit us online at Metro.us.
Use your smartphone to find today's crossword answers! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle.



♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. No matter what you do, you will not be able to please everyone. In the end, you need to do what you feel is right. Don't feel obliged to answer for your choices. Romance is on the rise.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. You can expand your social and professional connections if you participate in an organization that you believe in. This will bring you additional allies.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Someone you care about won't appreciate the extra hours you put in at work, but the financial results will be worth it. Make plans to compensate for your lack of downtime.
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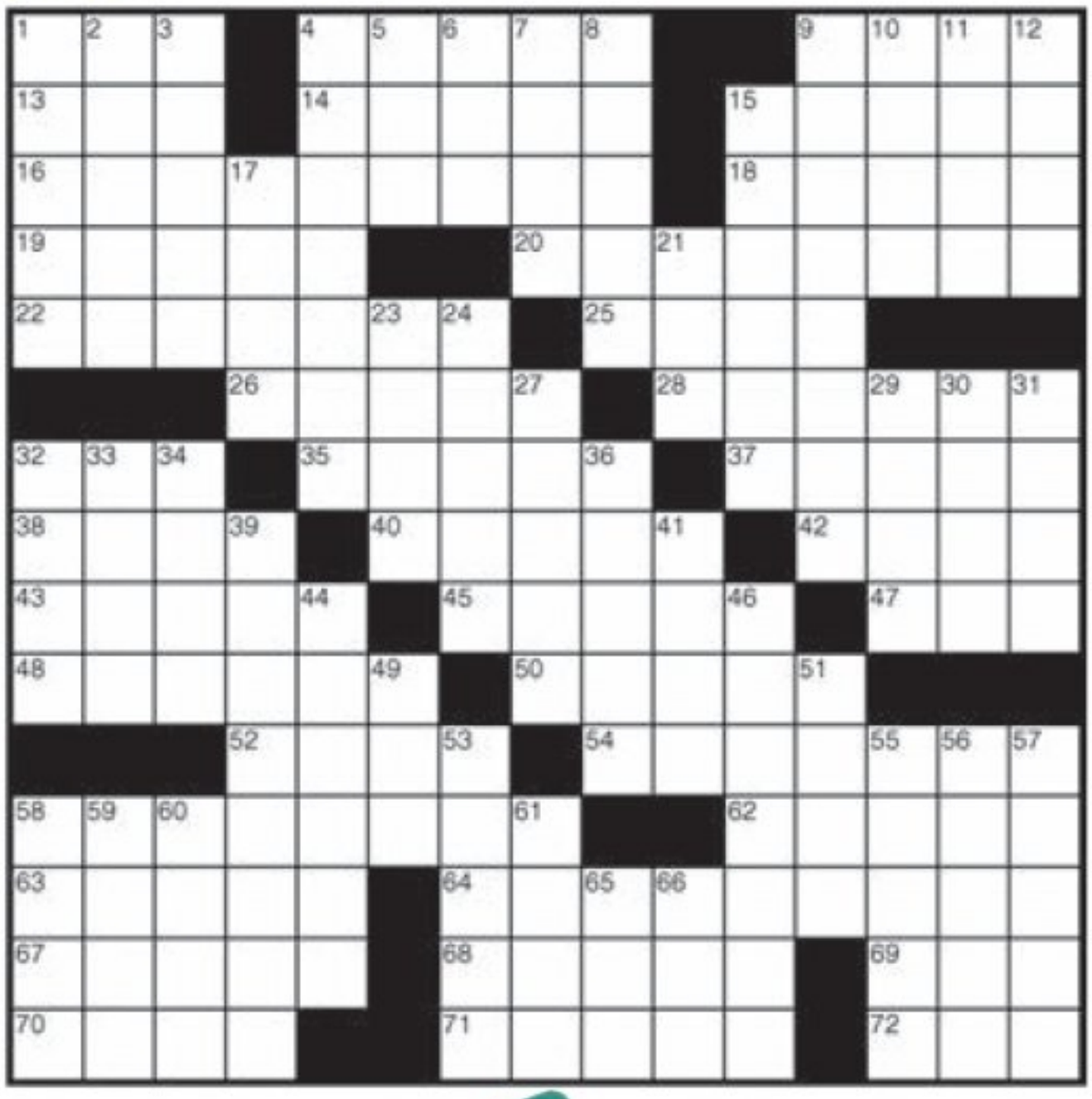

Across

1 CEO degree
4 Gets tired
9 Bushwhack
13 Startled cry
14 "The — Has Landed"
15 Kangaroo feature
16 Beach find
18 Had
19 Mischief
20 Degree of heat
22 On a tether
25 — de plume
26 Quartet member
28 Act in an appropriate manner
32 And, for Wolfgang
35 Waffle topper
37 Hopping mad
38 Enjoy, as benefits
40 Buenos —
42 Johnnycake
43 Caesar's tongue
45 Gem measure
47 Hit the jackpot
48 Spread out
50 Candlepower
52 Ukraine's capital
54 Rodeo gear
58 Brisk musical passages
62 Mooring site
63 Below, on a map
64 The sun, for one (2 wds.)
67 Nudges
68 On the blink
69 Buckeye campus
70 Earned a citation
71 Monk's cloister
72 Party fabric

Down

1 Hero's award
2 Swiss capital (var.)
3 Watchdog breed
4 Goes and gets
5 It has a long arm
6 Way back when
7 Look radiant
8 Hardtop
9 County subdivision
10 Viking letter
11 King beaters
12 Profs, probably
15 Saddle horn
17 It may be shaken
21 Stick up
23 "Orinoco Flow" singer
24 Greek column type
27 Bucolic
29 Say frankly
30 In — veritas
31 Blissful spot
32 WWW addresses
33 Type of tide
34 PC fodder
36 Hazard
39 Took part in a strike
41 Tale of derring-do
44 Whinnies
46 Frugal
49 "— Rosenkavalier"
51 Shallow pans
53 Russian export
55 TV chef — Brown
56 Kid
57 Majorette's gait
58 Deadly snakes
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60 — Skywalker
61 Medicine-chest item
65 PD dispatch
66 Wish undone

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3

SPORTS

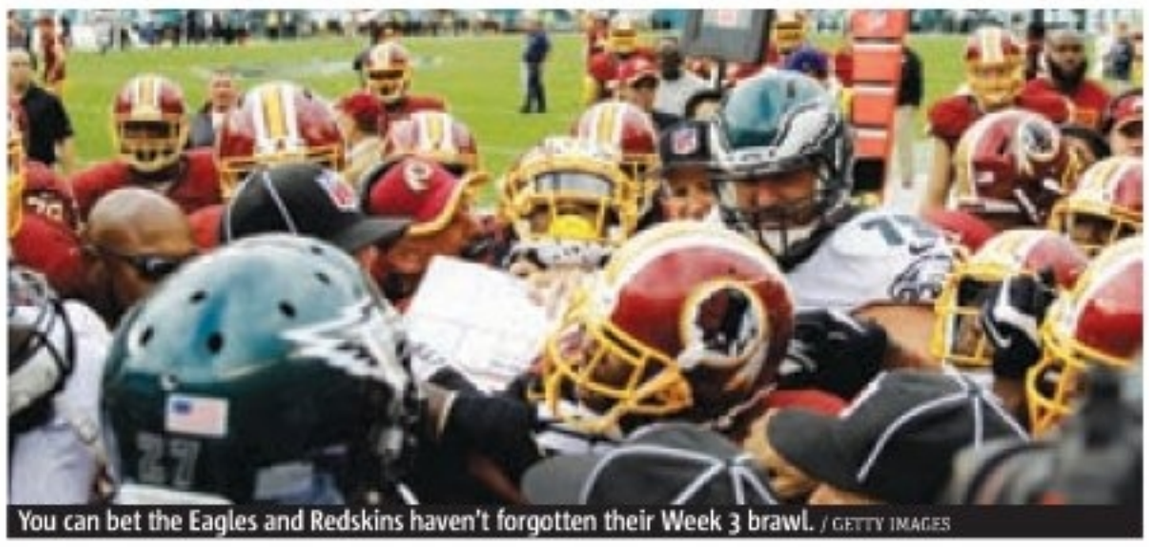
Will to win

76ers host Hornets

The 76ers are still chasing their third win after a close call against the Grizzlies last weekend. They have a good shot at putting up a good performance Friday night when the 6-19 Hornets come to town. Michael Carter-Williams has nearly averaged a triple-double in his last 10 games.

Eagles, Redskins could get testy in second match

NFL. Emotions could be running high as the Eagles travel to Washington looking to keep their playoff hopes alive.


You can bet the Eagles and Redskins haven't forgotten their Week 3 brawl. / GETTY IMAGES

Eagles (and Redskins) fans will recall a pretty heated affair back in Week 3.

With DeSean Jackson returning to Lincoln Financial Field and the Eagles looking to remain unbeaten, the Birds completed their third straight comeback with a 37-34 win.

Jason Peters and Chris Baker were ejected from the game when a melee took place following a "cheap shot" on Eagles quarterback Nick Foles.

But Peters hardly recounts the incident as he prepares for the Week 16 battle with much on the line.

"Hadn't even thought about it," Peters said. "We're going down there to win. … Point blank. Whatever we've got to do to win, that's what we're going down to do."

Backup offensive lineman Andrew Gardner says it feels "like another season," since the two teams faced off on Sept. 21, and the clubs have headed in different directions as the Eagles remain on life-support for a playoff spot and the 3-11 Redskins search for answers heading into 2015.

Will there be extra emotion Saturday at 4:30 when these two teams tango for the second time? Chip Kelly doesn't think so.

"It's not like it's more important in this game than it was in the last game or the game before that or the game before that," the coach said of the importance of keeping emotions in check. "I mean, it's something we always continue to strive and talk to our guys about not doing things that are going to hurt the football team."

Perhaps fueling the flame was LeSean McCoy posting an impression he did of his former teammate Jackson on Instagram earlier this week.

Jackson scored an 81-yard touchdown against the Birds in the first meeting. The last thing the Eagles want to do is give Jackson extra motivation.

Quoted

"We don't have anything against [DeSean Jackson], RG3, none of that stuff. We just want to win the game and get out of there." LeSean McCoy

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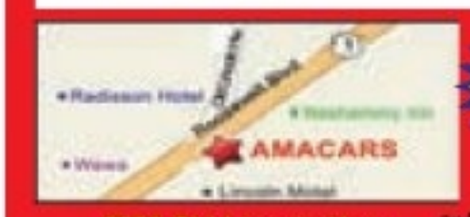

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Saturday games

Why are there two games this Saturday?

The year 2013 was a depressing one. After all, it was the first year in eons that Week 16 didn't feature NFL football on the Saturday before Christmas.

NFL games on the Saturday before Christmas is a sneaky holiday for many NFL fans, with a longstanding tradition of fans letting their significant others go out with the kids and finish the holiday shopping while said fans stay at home and do "house work."

This year's sneaky Saturday slate features two so-so games, highlighted by the Eagles at the Redskins (4:30 p.m., NFL Network). Kevin Harlan, Rich Gannon and Stacey Dales have the call from Washington for NFL Network. At 8:25 p.m., the Chargers will look to keep their slim playoff hopes alive when they face the 49ers in Santa Clara, California. Ian Eagle, Dan Fouts and Jenny Dell have the call for NFL Network in that one.

The games are part of CBS Sports' relationship with NFL Network's Thursday Night Football package. The reason for NFL games on Saturday is because it fills an obvious football void, with college bowl season haven't yet gotten entirely underway. In the past, when Christmas Day falls on a Sunday in Week 16, the NFL has moved nearly its entire slate of games to Saturday. MATT BURKE

DeMarco Murray's game status could be a big factor in Dallas' success against the Colts. / GETTY IMAGES

Eagles need help Sunday

NFL. Eagles fans will be glued to the TV Sunday, needing four teams to lose to help their playoff chances.

With a lot of important football to be played this weekend, here's a breakdown of a quartet of games with special meaning to Eagles Fans Sunday.

Colts at Cowboys (-3)
The Cowboys have work to do to clinch the NFC East. With DeMarco Murray's status still unknown, a Dallas loss could go a long way toward helping the Eagles slide into the playoff picture. The Colts have much to play for too. Though their playoff spot is assured, a win can go a long way toward giving Indy home field or even a bye.

Packers (-10) at Buccaneers
The Eagles need a wild card suitor to lose twice, and Green Bay is the least likely to lose Sunday as the Packers are double-digit favorites on the road against Tampa Bay.

Lions (-9) at Bears
Philly could use a loss from Detroit big time. If the Bears can overcome benching Jay Cutler and hold their home field against a division foe, the table would be set for the Packers facing the Lions for the division in Week 17. Two losses for the Lions could be the Eagles' back door into the postseason.

Seahawks (-9) at Cardinals
Arizona has certainly shown its resiliency thus far, positioning itself (at least for the moment) as the top team in the NFC and leaders in the West despite going through two quarterbacks and three starting running backs. Do they have any more fight left to down the streaking defending champs? If the Cardinals prevail Sunday, Seahawks could face a do-or-die against the Rams in Week 17 (if the Eagles win out).

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3 Things to watch for as the Eagles face the Redskins

NFL. The Eagles brace for their second game against Washington knowing a loss could end their season.

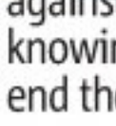
Remember Thanksgiving?

It seems like an entire season ago, but it's been just over three weeks since the Eagles were entrenched in first place and were big favorites to breeze into the playoffs as the NFC East champs.

But back-to-back losses to the Seahawks and Cowboys following their Thanksgiving Day massacre have them stuck in seventh place and scratching at the feet of the six playoff spots.

Needing losses from other teams in the NFC, all the Birds can do is focus on earning their 10th win for the second year in a row down in Landover, Maryland.

Here are three of the biggest keys for the Eagles' success in their Week 16 matchup vs. Washington.



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Mark Sanchez has nine interceptions in seven games this year with the Eagles.

1 Stop turning the ball over

To say the Eagles are prone to turning the ball over is a bit of an understatement.

Like everything else the Eagles do, they turn the ball over with authority.

The Birds lead the NFL with 33 giveaways, lead the league in interceptions with 19 and rank 25th in turnover differential at -8.

The only reason the Eagles are able to boast a 9-5 record is their ability to score on special teams and defense, as well as some fortunate instances where turnovers didn't prove costly.

But hoping for defensive scoring or lucky bounces isn't the way for a team to make the playoffs.

"It's still something that you have to clean up," Chip Kelly said. "It's something that we need to continue to work on and we need to continue to fix because you're not going to win games when you turn the ball over that many times. You're giving the other team an opportunity and you're also not giving yourself an opportunity."

Washington is 26th in the league with just 16 takeaways, offering a nice respite for the Eagles.

2 Keep RGIII under wraps

The first time Philly played Washington, it was Kirk Cousins under center.

The young quarterback threw for over 400 yards and nearly upset the Eagles before a comeback got the Birds to 3-0 at the beginning of the season.

This time, another mobile quarterback will try to take down the Eagles (like Russell Wilson did in Week 14).

Robert Griffin III, who was benched earlier this year but has taken over due to injuries to Colt McCoy and Cousins, is auditioning for a job in 2015. And it makes him dangerous.

IT'S ANYONE'S GUESS WHAT KIND OF PRODUCTION THE 'SKINS WILL GET FROM GRIFFIN.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

"I know he can run and I know he can throw," Kelly said. "That's what we're preparing for. We're preparing for the best."

3 Sack attack

If there was a golden opportunity for the Eagles defensive line, this is it.

The Eagles have the second-most sacks in the NFL with 47. The Redskins have allowed the second-most in the NFL with 53.

Connor Barwin has 14.5 sacks to lead the Eagles and the NFC.

If the Eagles can take care of business against the battered Redskins offensive line, and perhaps a still recovering RGIII, things could get out of hand in Washington.

Working in Washington's favor is last week's injury to Trent Cole. With Cole out, Brandon Graham will make his first Eagles start since 2012.

Connor Barwin

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Sizing up the

MLB. Former big-leaguer and MLB analyst Billy Ripken thinks keeping Cole Hamels is key for the Phillies piecing together another contender.

It's the first time since the Veterans Stadium era that the Phillies brain trust has uttered the dirty word "rebuilding." The core has been stripped of Jimmy Rollins and more deals may be on the horizon soon. Metro went one-on-one with MLB Network analyst Billy Ripken to discuss the status of Cole Hamels, who else could be dealt and what bright spots there are for the Phillies.

Are you surprised it took the Phillies this long to finally start tearing their team apart?
The last couple of years have been some tough ones for the Phillies. They hoped their big three, Ryan Howard, Chase Utley and Jimmy Rollins, would get back and play the way they once did but it didn't pan out. It's certainly time to move on.

It's been bleak and 2015 doesn't look promising. But what silver lining do you see?
I like the guys they have at the front end of their rotation. But that's if they keep Hamels and if Cliff Lee can come back and do what he has done in the past.

What do you do about Domonic Brown?
That's an interesting one since Brown had a month of great productivity.

It was actually six weeks.
I would hate to underboogie him. Six weeks. I think this is the reality. That burst he had was encouraging but I don't think he is that player that was dominant for six weeks. You have to hope he's not the player he was last season. You have to hope that was an aberration. The only thing is that if you're the Phillies, you just don't have a lot of options. You have to hope Brown turns it around.

Ben Revere gets a lot of grief but last season wasn't his fault. His biggest problem is being on a team bereft of power and production.
I agree. How many RBI did Revere get last year?

It was 28.
That tells me not a lot of people are getting on base in front of him. I think Revere did his job. He hit .300 [.306]. He's not going to hit homers for you but he's going to hit singles. The Phillies problems don't start with Ben Revere. I think he's someone to build on. I think Revere can

BILLY RIPKEN IS THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF HALL OF FAMER CAL.
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Billy the Kid

Billy Ripken has become an expert television analyst for MLB Network as well as on the radio for SiriusXM. He has an impressive baseball pedigree.

- Billy's father (Cal Sr.) and older brother (Cal Jr.) each had historic careers in Major League Baseball.
- In his 12-year career in the majors, Ripken played for the Orioles, Rangers, Tigers and Indians while compiling a career .240 average.
- Billy and Cal Ripken are one of only four brother combinations in major league history to play second base and shortstop on the same club.
- He batted in the first interleague run in MLB history and has the 22nd-best all-time fielding percentage of major league second basemen, at .987.
- During the 2009 World Baseball Classic, Ripken served as a first base coach for the United States national team.

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Phillies as rebuild begins

The glory days and championship core of the Phillies is slowly starting to disassemble.

get better and there are some parts of the Phillies I like.

Which takes us a Phillies' strength, the bullpen.
The Phillies bullpen has arms. You got to like their arms, particularly [Ken] Giles. What's not to like about him. The Phillies have a lot of good young arms.

And then there's Jonathan Papelbon. If it weren't for his behavior he would probably have been dealt a long time ago.
I think that's the problem. Teams need bullpen pieces. Papelbon is expensive but he's solid. I think his behavior is a big reason a team didn't bite. You look at the teams that can use him.

Just like the Detroit Tigers.
It's funny how the Tigers come up when it comes to bullpen needs. We'll see what happens with Papelbon and Hamels as far as trades go. Next year is a season of transition for the Phillies.

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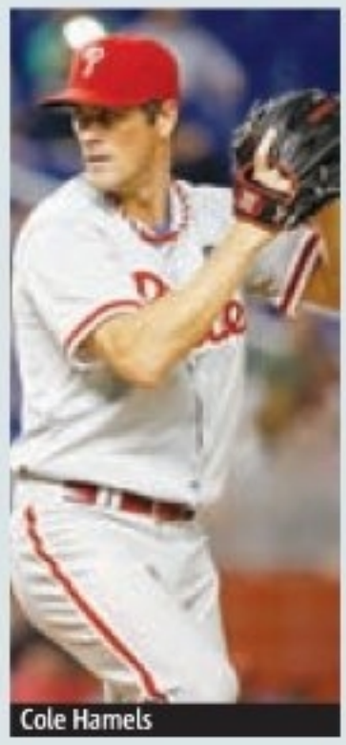
Keeping King Cole

Will the Phillies deal their lefty ace this offseason?


Cole Hamels

How wise is it to trade Hamels, your crown jewel, when no prospects panned out in the Roy Halladay, or Lee deals or even, when you look outside the Phillies, the CC Sabathia deal and when Ruben Amaro is making the trade?
You have to do your homework if you're trading a guy that is the caliber of Hamels. But I'm with you. I like keeping the bird in the hand. You know what you'll get out of Hamels as opposed to prospects.

If you were the Phillies GM, what would it take for you to trade Hamels?
Three really solid prospects. You hope you hit on a couple of them. A guy who is an ace is huge. Look at the Kansas City Royals. A lot of saber guys went nuts when they traded Wil Myers for Jamie Shields. Myers was one of the best prospects in the game but Shields helped Kansas City get to the World Series for the first time in nearly 30 years.

Are Phillies fans prepared to watch Hamels win another World Series in another uniform a la Hunter Pence?
That can be painful, especially when a deal doesn't pan out for you.

If the Phillies don't trade Hamels, the most attractive player on the team is Utley but he has the full no-trade. How could Amaro convince him to leave?
He needs to convey to Chase that he'll have an opportunity to get back to the postseason to relive those seasons when the Phillies were really good. If he exercises his no-trade, you're stuck. But if he does remain with the Phillies, he was pretty productive last season.

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2007 Honda Pilot EX-L AWD
$14,900

2011 Jeep Compass Latitude 4X4
$14,900

2008 Buick Enclave CX
$15,900

2011 Chevy Camaro SS Convertible
$23,900

2011 Ford Taurus SEL
$14,900

2012 Chrysler Town & Country Touring
$15,900

2008 Mazda CX-9 Touring
$12,900

2012 Chevy Equinox LS
$15,900

2012 Dodge Avenger SE
$12,900

2013 Ford Explorer XLT 4X4
$25,900

2011 Nissan Murano SL
$18,900

BANKRUPTCIES • CHARGE-OFF'S • GOOD CREDIT • BAD CREDIT • NO CREDIT • REPOS • DIVORCE • BANKRUPTCIES

ONE DAY SALE

EXTRA SHOPPING HOURS!

SHOP SATURDAY, DEC. 20 FROM 7AM-MIDNIGHT! (IT'S A SALE TOO BIG TO FIT IN A DAY!)

ALSO SHOP TODAY, DEC. 19 FROM 7AM-MIDNIGHT!

HOURS MAY VARY BY STORE. VISIT MACYS.COM & CLICK ON *STORES* FOR LOCAL INFORMATION.

FREE SHIPPING & FREE RETURNS AT MACYS.COM! FREE SHIPPING WITH $99 PURCHASE. FREE RETURNS BY MAIL OR IN-STORE.

U.S. ONLY. EXCLUSIONS APPLY; DETAILS AT MACYS.COM/FREERETURNS

GET IT BY CHRISTMAS WHEN YOU ORDER ON MACYS.COM BY 5PM EST ON 12/22 AND CHOOSE STANDARD/PREMIUM SHIPPING.

DOORBUSTERS

7AM-2PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY!
GET HERE EARLY, WHILE THEY LAST!

DOORBUSTER
60% OFF
CASHMERE SWEATERS
Doorbuster $78. Reg. $195, after 2pm: 97.50.
Only at Macy's.
From Club Room.
★ 1500399.

DOORBUSTER
70% OFF
SUITS
Doorbuster 187.50.
Reg. $625, after 2pm: 249.99.
From famous American designers.

DOORBUSTER
49.99
LUXURIOUS CASHMERE
Reg. $139, after 2pm: 69.99.
Only at Macy's. Charter Club crewneck (★ 1498202) or V-neck sweaters in over 21 colors. Misses & petites.

DOORBUSTER
99.99
TOMMY HILFIGER
Reg./Orig.* $225, after 2pm: 112.50.
Wool-blend and down coats. Misses. Shown: peacoat. ★ 1531937.

DOORBUSTER
24.99
SLEEPWEAR
Reg. $38-$45, after 2pm: 34.99.
Thermal tops or flannel pants from famous American designers. For example: ★ 1722321.

DOORBUSTER
59.99
PACKABLE DOWN
Reg. $195, after 2pm: 84.99.
Hawke & Co. jackets.
★ 1509123.

DOORBUSTER
29.99
CASHMERE SCARVES OR LEATHER GLOVES
Reg. $75-$110, after 2pm: 52.50-$66. **Only at Macy's.** From Charter Club. For example: ★ 1038712.

DOORBUSTER
75% OFF
OUTERWEAR
Doorbuster $20-$35.
Reg. $80-$140, after 2pm: $40-$70. From Hawke & Co. (★ 1539821), London Fog~ & more. Boys' 2-20; girls' 7-16.

DOORBUSTER
12.99 3-PC. FRY PAN SET
Reg. 39.99, after 2pm: 24.99.
Only at Macy's.
Farberware 8" 10" & 11" nonstick skillets.
★ 1483148.

DOORBUSTER
17.99 YOUR CHOICE
Reg. 39.99-44.99, after 2pm: 29.99. Bella toaster oven, #14326 (★ 1500540) or Black & Decker coffeemaker, #DLX1050B (★ 833512).

DOORBUSTER
39.99
DIAMOND EARRINGS
Reg. $160, after 2pm: $60.
Victoria Townsend 1/4 ct. t.w.‡ rose-cut in 18k gold over sterling silver (★ 1758715) or sterling silver. (★ 1758714).

DOORBUSTER
$99 CULTURED FRESHWATER PEARLS
Reg. $500, after 2pm: 187.50. 100" 7-8mm endless strand.
★ 221829.

DOORBUSTER
39.99
ALL 8-PC. BED ENSEMBLES
Only at Macy's. By Fairfield Square Collection. Full-king. Shown: Cordova. ★ 1492892. Reg. $100, after 2pm: 59.99. Twin also on special.

DOORBUSTER
15.99
ULTRA PLUSH THROW
Reg. $40, after 2pm: 19.99. **Only at Macy's.** 50"x70". By Charter Club. Polyester. ★ 891523.

DOORBUSTER
$199
DIAMOND RING
Reg. $600, after 2pm: $225.
1/2 ct. t.w.‡ in sterling silver. ★ 659011.

DOORBUSTER
$169
DIAMOND EARRINGS
Reg. $600, after 2pm: $315. 1/2 ct. t.w.‡ in 14k white gold.
★ 540445.

DOORBUSTER 25% OFF REGULAR & SALE PRICES
SELECTIONS FOR HER: SPORTSWEAR FOR MISSES, PETITES & WOMEN
PLUS, SELECT KIDS' COLLECTIONS

DOORBUSTER 20% OFF REGULAR & SALE PRICES
SELECTIONS FOR HER: FAMOUS MAKER & DESIGNER COLLECTIONS FOR MISSES, PETITES & WOMEN; DRESSES, SUITS, CAREER SPORTSWEAR,IMPULSE HANDBAGS

OR, EXTRA SAVINGS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY UNTIL 2PM SAVINGS PASS DISCOUNTS DO NOT APPLY TO DOORBUSTERS & DEALS OF THE DAY.

★macy's WOW! $10 OFF
ALL SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL AND SELECT HOME ITEMS!
CANNOT BE USED ON DOORBUSTERS OR DEALS OF THE DAY
$10 OFF
YOUR PURCHASE OF $25 OR MORE.
VALID 12/19 'TIL 2PM OR 12/20/14 'TIL 2PM. LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER.
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ALSO excludes: Everyday Values (EDV), specials, super buys, furniture, mattresses, floor coverings, rugs, electrics/electronics, cosmetics/fragrances, athletic shoes for him, her & kids, Dallas Cowboys merchandise, gift cards, jewelry trunk shows, New Era, Nike on Field, previous purchases, special orders, selected licensed depts., special purchases, services, macys.com. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer, except opening a new Macy's account. Dollar savings are allocated as discounts off each eligible item, as shown on receipt. When you return an item, you forfeit the savings allocated to that item. This coupon has no cash value and may not be redeemed for cash, used to purchase gift cards or applied as payment or credit to your account. Purchase must be $25 or more, exclusive of tax & delivery fees.

★macy's WOW! $20 OFF
ALL SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL AND SELECT HOME ITEMS!
CANNOT BE USED ON DOORBUSTERS OR DEALS OF THE DAY
$20 OFF
YOUR PURCHASE OF $50 OR MORE.
VALID 12/19 'TIL 2PM OR 12/20/14 'TIL 2PM. LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER.
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ALSO excludes: Everyday Values (EDV), specials, super buys, furniture, mattresses, floor coverings, rugs, electrics/electronics, cosmetics/fragrances, athletic shoes for him, her & kids, Dallas Cowboys merchandise, gift cards, jewelry trunk shows, New Era, Nike on Field, previous purchases, special orders, selected licensed depts., special purchases, services, macys.com. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer, except opening a new Macy's account. Dollar savings are allocated as discounts off each eligible item, as shown on receipt. When you return an item, you forfeit the savings allocated to that item. This coupon has no cash value and may not be redeemed for cash, used to purchase gift cards or applied as payment or credit to your account. Purchase must be $50 or more, exclusive of tax & delivery fees.

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Fine jewelry doorbusters are only at stores that carry fine jewelry. ➤ REG. & ORIG. PRICES ARE OFFERING PRICES AND SAVINGS MAY NOT BE BASED ON ACTUAL SALES. SOME ORIG. PRICES NOT IN EFFECT DURING THE PAST 90 DAYS. ONE DAY SALE PRICES IN EFFECT 12/19 & 12/20/2014. MERCHANDISE WILL BE ON SALE AT THESE & OTHER SALE PRICES THROUGH 1/3/15, EXCEPT AS NOTED. *Intermediate price reductions may have been taken. ‡All carat weights (ct. t.w.) are approximate; variance may be .05 carat. Jewelry photos may be enlarged or enhanced to show detail. Fine jewelry at select stores; log on to macys.com for locations. Almost all gemstones including diamonds have been treated to enhance their beauty & require special care, log on to macys.com/gemstones or ask your sales professional. Doorbuster items are available while supplies last. Extra savings are taken off already reduced prices, "doorbuster" prices reflect extra savings. Advertised merchandise may not be carried at your local Macy's & selection may vary by store. Prices & merchandise may differ at macys.com. Electric items & luggage carry mfrs' warranties; **to see a mfr's warranty at no charge before purchasing, visit a store or write to:** Macy's Warranty Dept., PO Box 1026, Maryland Heights, MO 63043, attn: Consumer Warranties. N4110131.

OPEN A MACY'S ACCOUNT FOR EXTRA 20% SAVINGS THE FIRST 2 DAYS, UP TO $100, WITH MORE REWARDS TO COME. Macy's credit card is available subject to credit approval; new account savings valid the day your account is opened and the next day; excludes services, selected licensed departments, gift cards, restaurants, gourmet food & wine. The new account savings are limited to a total of $100; application must qualify for immediate approval to receive extra savings; employees not eligible.

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